



**Grant
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 16
AGENDA DATE: Thu 01/13/2005
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SUBJECT: Approve a resolution authorizing application for grant funding in the amount of \$249,961 for the Austin Police Department, Forensic Science Division to receive training in forensic sample evidence examination and the purchase of equipment.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available from the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division Coverdell Forensics Science Improvement Program for the grant period February 1, 2005 to August 31, 2005. An in-kind match is not required.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING Police
DEPARTMENT:

DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION: Rick Coy

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Coy, Assistant Chief/974-5021

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

This action approves a resolution authorizing the City to apply for \$249,961 from the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division Coverdell Forensics Science Improvement Program. The grant period runs from February 1, 2005 to August 31, 2005.

Funding will be utilized by APD Crime Lab employees to attend training classes and seminars covering various aspects of forensic sample evidence examination. The Austin Police Department Forensics Laboratory is preparing for American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors – Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) accreditation with a target date of September 2005. An important component of the accreditation process is the laboratory system's training program. The training program must be sufficiently comprehensive to cover all aspects of the work performed by a laboratory for each discipline in which the laboratory performs casework.

The Coverdell Forensics Science Program will enable the Forensics lab to access the training they need for the proper documentation, testing, examinations and retention of evidence. Also included in this request is equipment needed to support the new Laboratory Information System and equipment in the Chemistry Section. The Laboratory Information System will allow for the efficient and effective tracking of evidence workflow so that the number of cases analyzed will be maximized. The LIMS will be used by all sections within the Division; Crime Scene, Latent Print, Chemistry, DNA, Multi Media, Polygraph and Firearms. The intoxilyzer, simulators, and the spectrophotometer are needed pieces of equipment that replace older and outdated models currently used in the Lab.

This grant addresses the Department goals of reducing the violent crime rate and the property crime rate. It also addresses the following APD Activity Objective: The purpose of the Forensics activity is to provide timely and accurate forensic science and operational support to APD, local law enforcement and judicial agencies so they can successfully resolve investigations.



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RESOLUTION NO. 050113-

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Austin, to authorize the application for \$249,961 in grant funding from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Coverdell Forensics Science Improvement Program for the training in forensic sample evidence examination and purchase of equipment for the Austin Police Department, Forensics Science Division; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the proposed application for State grant renewal funds for said project, in the amount of \$249,961 from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Coverdell Forensics Science Improvement Program for the Austin Police Department, Forensic Science Division; and

WHEREAS, the City Council designates the Assistant City Manager for public safety as the authorized official who has the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate this grant; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has agreed that in the event of loss or misuse of the Criminal Justice Division funds, the City Council assures that the funds will be returned to the Criminal Justice Division in full; **NOW**,

THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council approves the application for grant funding from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division in the amount of \$249,961.

ADOPTED: January 13, 2005

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk